



GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on
Partnerships in Environmental Management
for the Seas of East Asia

**Consensus Building
for the Formulation
of the Sustainable
Development Strategy
for the Seas of East Asia**

February 2005

PEMSEA/TI/2005/3



**CONSENSUS-BUILDING FOR THE FORMULATION
OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

*GEF/UNDP/IMO REGIONAL Programme on
Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)*

**CONSENSUS BUILDING FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA**

February 2005

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part and in any form for educational or non-profit purposes or to provide wider dissemination for public response, provided prior written permission is obtained from the Regional Programme Director, acknowledgment of the source is made and no commercial usage or sale of the material occurs. PEMSEA would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

No use of this publication may be made for resale, any commercial purpose or any purpose other than those given above without a written agreement between PEMSEA and the requesting party.

Published by the GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Building Partnerships
in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

Printed in Quezon City, Philippines

PEMSEA. 2005. Consensus Building for the Formulation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. PEMSEA Technical Information Report No. 2005/3, 24 p. Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.

A GEF Project Implemented by UNDP and Executed by IMO

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the other participating organizations. The designation employed and the presentation do not imply the expression of opinion whatsoever on the part of GEF, UNDP, IMO or the Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) concerning the legal status of any country, territory or city or its authority, or concerning the delimitation of its territory or boundaries.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) aims to promote a shared vision for the Seas of East Asia:

“The resource systems of the Seas of East Asia are a natural heritage, safeguarding sustainable and healthy food supplies, livelihood, properties and investments, and social, cultural and ecological values for the people of the region, while contributing to economic prosperity and global markets through safe and efficient maritime trade, thereby promoting a peaceful and harmonious co-existence for present and future generations.”

PEMSEA focuses on building intergovernmental, interagency and intersectoral partnerships to strengthen environmental management capabilities at the local, national and regional levels, and develop the collective capacity to implement appropriate strategies and environmental action programs on self-reliant basis. Specifically, PEMSEA will carry out the following:

- build national and regional capacity to implement integrated coastal management programs;
- promote multi-country initiatives in addressing priority transboundary environment issues in sub-regional sea areas and pollution hotspots;
- reinforce and establish a range of functional networks to support environmental management;
- identify environmental investment and financing opportunities and promote mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, environmental projects for financing and other forms of developmental assistance;
- advance scientific and technical inputs to support decision-making;
- develop integrated information management systems linking selected sites into a regional network for data sharing and technical support;
- establish the enabling environment to reinforce delivery capabilities and advance the concerns of non-government and community-based organizations, environmental journalists, religious groups and other stakeholders;
- strengthen national capacities for developing integrated coastal and marine policies as part of state policies for sustainable socio-economic development; and
- promote regional commitment for implementing international conventions, and strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation and collaboration using a sustainable regional mechanism.

The twelve participating countries are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The collective efforts of these countries in implementing the strategies and activities will result in effective policy and management interventions, and in cumulative global environmental benefits, thereby contributing towards the achievement of the ultimate goal of protecting and sustaining the life support systems in the coastal and international waters over the long term.

Dr. Chua Thia-Eng
Regional Programme Director
PEMSEA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	INTRODUCTION	1
	The Seas of East Asia	1
	The Sustainable Development Strategy of East Asia	1
B.	EVOLVING A COMMON DESIRE FOR THE REGION	2
	Conceptualization of the Strategy	2
	Generating Consensus	2
C.	THE CONSULTATION PROCESS	4
	Major Process, Partners and Dimensions of the Consultation	4
	The First Revision	8
	The Second Revision	10
	The Third Revision	12
	Final National Review and Revision	16
D.	THE SDS-SEA: REGIONAL CONSENSUS AND COMPROMISES	18
	The Need for the SDS-SEA	18
	Nature and Purpose	19
	Framework and Essential Elements	19
	The Spirit of Compromise and Seeking Common Grounds	21
	REFERENCES	23
ANNEX	List of Collaborators	25
	TABLES	
	Table 1 Consultations With and Among Countries and Other Stakeholders on the Formulation of SDS-SEA	5
	Table 2 The SDS-SEA in Relation to the WSSD Plan of Implementation Concerning Sustainable Ocean Development	19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 12 December 2003, the Seas of East Asia region adopted a common framework for the environmental management and protection of its shared seas. The historic event was capped by ceremonial signing of the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia by the honorable ministers and officials from PEMSEA countries -- Brunei, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam -- before a gathering of distinguished guests from various governments, research institutions and international organizations.

The Declaration embodies the commitment of the countries to adhere to and implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), which formally brings together national and stakeholder efforts under a collaborative platform for partnerships to implement commitments made under international agreements pertaining to coasts and oceans, including the recommendations from the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Agenda 21.

This paper revisits the approaches and processes undertaken to generate the regional consensus needed to develop the SDS-SEA. Working on existing information documents, it chronicles the outcomes of several consultations conducted, particularly during the 1st Senior Government Officials' Meeting and the 9th Programme Steering Committee in Pattaya, Thailand, the final national review by PEMSEA countries and the feedback from various stakeholders on the SDS-SEA.

CONSENSUS-BUILDING FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

A. INTRODUCTION

The Seas of East Asia

The Seas of East Asia are bordered by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The region encompasses a series of large marine ecosystems (LMEs), subregional seas, coastal areas, and associated river basins.

The Seas of East Asia are the life support system and natural asset of the region and its peoples. However, they are seriously threatened by ongoing degradation and destruction of habitats, depletion of fisheries, pollution of coastal waters, red tide occurrences and loss of biodiversity -- phenomena that accompany rapid economic development.

The progress made by the regional efforts thus far in response to these problems has yet to catch up with development of regional alliances in economic and other fields. There is a need to step up concerted efforts among the countries and other stakeholders, and to adopt innovative approaches in tackling transboundary environmental and resource concerns.

The Sustainable Development Strategy of East Asia

For the first time in the history of the region, the countries and various other stakeholders jointly embarked on the development of a strategy to address critical problems and issues that pose as challenges to the sustainable development of their shared coastal and marine environment -- the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).

The goal of the SDS-SEA is to offer a regional collaborative platform for the countries and other stakeholders to implement the commitments made under international agreements pertaining to coasts and oceans, including Agenda 21, the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) Declaration and Plan of Implementation, and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

In this regard, the SDS-SEA does not entail any new legal obligations or requirements, but represents a programmatic approach to realizing such benefits as:

- 1) Regional partnership arrangements that can bridge conventional intergovernmental approaches with the emerging initiatives undertaken by NGOs, private sectors and other stakeholders;

- 2) Enabling the concerned international organizations and programmes operating in the region to pool their efforts and expertise for the benefit of the countries and other stakeholders;
- 3) Providing the countries and other stakeholders with a set of guidelines, references and examples to help facilitate the development of their strategies, policies and implementation plans to address specific national, local and sectoral needs;
- 4) Offering a set of implementation approaches and measures for sustainable coastal and marine development that were proven suitable and effective through a decade of demonstration and extension activities in the region;
- 5) Facilitating national and regional capacity building, particularly the sharing and transfer of experiences, knowledge, technology and techniques, as well as mutual assistance among the countries currently at different stages of socioeconomic development; and
- 6) The development of a comprehensive strategic programme, which facilitates the flow of support and assistance from interested financing institutions and donor agencies, and helps establish self-sustainable financing mechanisms and create investment opportunities for the implementation of national and regional sustainable development projects.

B. EVOLVING A COMMON DESIRE FOR THE REGION

Conceptualization of the Strategy

The UNDP-GEF Project Document pertaining to PEMSEA (UNDP-GEF, 1999) stated that developing a “policy framework for building partnerships in environmental protection and management of the East Asian Seas” and generating a “consensus on the draft regional policy framework and related implementation strategy” are important facets of PEMSEA’s major component on “sustainable regional mechanism” (Page 75, Item 9.3, Part D). By endorsing the Project Document and joining PEMSEA, the countries of the region demonstrated their common desire to embark on the development of such a “regional policy framework” as part of the efforts in establishing a sustainable regional mechanism.

To facilitate this activity, the Regional Programme Office (RPO) prepared and submitted to the 7th Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, in Dalian, China on 26-29 July 2000, a concept paper concerning a sustainable regional mechanism (7th PSC Meeting Document No. PSC/00/DOC/20). In reviewing the concept paper, the 7th PSC Meeting noted that the regional mechanism “can take on different forms, and that various options will be explored and evaluated as part of the developmental process.” The 7th PSC Meeting recommended “the adoption of the strategy and approaches for the development of a regional mechanism, as identified in the concept paper and in close consultation with participating countries” (PEMSEA, 2000).

Generating Consensus

Following the recommendation of the 7th PSC Meeting, an initial draft of the Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia was prepared on 25 May 2001, taking into account:

- 1) Coastal and marine environmental and resource use issues and impacts, transboundary ones in particular, as contained in available technical and scientific reports, including available reports of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) and other related assessments by national and international organizations, relating to the Seas of East Asia;
- 2) Existing efforts of UN agencies, regional entities, international donor institutions and national governments regarding environmental and resource management of the Seas of East Asia, including progress in the development and application of integrated coastal management, marine environment monitoring, information management, financing mechanisms, and others;
- 3) Implementation of relevant international conventions and agreements by the countries of the region and the capacity of the countries to fully meet the relevant obligations of such instruments; and
- 4) Existing national policies and programmes relating to coastal and marine environment and natural resources, and the level of implementation and future directions, as contained in case studies and publications (e.g., Tropical Coasts).

The 8th PSC Meeting, in Busan, RO Korea on 19-22 March 2002 (PEMSEA, 2002b), reviewed the revised draft of the Strategy and noted that it “was significant as a regional platform for:

- ”1. Intergovernmental, interagency and intersectoral partnerships;
- ”2. International agencies, national governments and local governments to strengthen integrated implementation of relevant international conventions and instruments; and
- ”3. A sustainable financing mechanism designed to assist countries to realize mutual goals and benefits over the long term.”

The 8th PSC Meeting decided to change the title of the Strategy into “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia” and endorsed it in principle. It requested the RPO to further revise and prepare a final draft of the SDS-SEA for the consideration of the 9th PSC Meeting, taking into account all inputs received from concerned governments and other stakeholders. It also requested the RPO to pursue national and regional consultations and undertake the preparations for a Ministerial Forum, which would serve as a high-level intergovernmental mechanism for the review and adoption of the SDS-SEA.

The 1st Senior Government Officials Meeting (SGOM), in Pattaya, Thailand on 4-5 August 2003, a preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Forum, “recognized the need to conduct a final national review of the text of the SDS-SEA as amended by the SGOM,” and

“called on the governments to actively pursue national final review and endorsement of the SDS-SEA according to their respective national mechanisms and processes.” Moreover, the 1st SGOM requested the RPO to “publish the final version of the SDS-SEA one month before the Ministerial Forum, taking into account the feedback from the participating governments and other stakeholders.” (PEMSEA, 2003c.)

The 9th PSC Meeting in Pattaya, Thailand on 6-9 August 2003, which immediately followed the 1st SGOM, supported the decisions made by the 1st SGOM concerning the SDS-SEA. (PEMSEA, 2003d.)

By 15 November 2003, the RPO had produced and distributed the final version of the SDS-SEA, incorporating the feedback from the final national review and other stakeholders. By the end of November 2003, the RPO published the SDS-SEA for consideration of and adoption by the Ministerial Forum, which was scheduled for 12 December 2003, in accordance with the agreements reached at the 1st SGOM.

C. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Major Process, Partners and Dimensions of the Consultation

Over the three years preceding the 2003 Ministerial Forum, the draft of the SDS-SEA went through five major rounds of consultations with, and revisions by, the countries and various other stakeholders, including the initial draft (25 May 2001), the First Revision (1 August 2001), the Second Revision (19 April 2002), the Third Revision (5 August 2003) and the Final Revision (15 October 2003).

Records (see Table 1) show that a total of 900 copies of the draft SDS-SEA and its revised versions were circulated for review and comment to more than 110 agencies, organizations, institutions and other stakeholders, which include:

- a) 35 government agencies in the 12 participating countries, particularly PEMSEA national focal points and some local governments
- b) 16 UN and other international organizations, e.g., GEF, UNDP, IMO, UNEP, FAO, IOC (UNESCO) and IAEA
- c) 4 financing institutions, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank
- d) 12 regional organizations, such as ASEAN, COBSEA, regional offices of major concerned UN agencies, and GEF International Waters projects in the region
- e) 11 non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- f) 5 private sector industry groups
- g) 28 research and education institutions

These agencies, organizations and institutions cover a broad range of sectors, disciplines, perspectives and interests, which are concerned with, to various extents, coastal and marine environment and resources of the region and related fields such as fisheries,

shipping, port development, mining, energy, tourism and other activities and management programmes.

The draft SDS-SEA was also made available in the PEMSEA website for two years.

Table 1 Consultations With and Among Countries and Other Stakeholders on the Formulation of SDS-SEA

Governments and Other Stakeholders	Initial Draft, 25 May 2001	1st Revision, 1 August 2001	2nd Revision, 19 April 2002
Pemsea National Focal Agencies / Local Governments at PEMSEA Demo Sites (20)	11	220	23
Other Government Agencies (15)			
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia		1	1
Japan Agency for Maritime Safety			3
Ministry of Transportation, China			1
State Environmental Protection Administration, China			1
Ministry of Agriculture, China			1
Economic Planning Unit, Malaysia			2
Fisheries Agency, Malaysia			1
Philippine Council for Sustainable Development			1
Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines	2		1
National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines	1	1	1
Maritime Port Authority, Singapore			1
Ministry of Fisheries, Thailand			1
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand			1
Ministry of Investment & Planning, Vietnam			1
Department of Primary Industries, Queensland, Australia		1	1
UN Agencies / International Entities (16)			
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Headquarters and Countries Offices	3	29	12
Global Environment Facility (GEF)		14	2
UNDP/GEF			1
International Maritime Organization (IMO)			1
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)		1	1
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)			1
United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)			1
UNEP/GEF Coordination Office			1
UNEP Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources of Pollution (GPA)			1
Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO			1

Governments and Other Stakeholders	Initial Draft, 25 May 2001	1st Revision, 1 August 2001	2nd Revision, 19 April 2002
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)			1
GIWA		2	1
Global Ballast Water Management Programme			1
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)			1
WorldFish Center			3
World Resource Institute		1	2
Financing / Donor Institutions (4)			
World Bank		26	27
Asian Development Bank		1	1
Nippon Foundation, Japan	2		1
Japan Ship and Ocean Foundation		1	1
Regional Organizations / Initiatives (12)			
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)		1	1
UNEP-East Asian Seas Regional Co-ordinating Unit		1	1
UNEP/GEF Project for South China Sea		1	1
Asia-pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC)		2	1
UNEP East Asian Seas (EAS) Regional Programme and the Coordinating Body on Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)		1	1
Mekong River Commission			1
Tumen River Project			1
IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)			1
Asian Fisheries Society		1	1
Southeast Asian Programme in Ocean Law, Policy and Management (SEAPOL)		1	1
Asia Pacific Centre of Env. Law (APCEL)		1	1
Coastal Management Center (CMC)	1	1	1
Non-Governmental Organizations (11)			
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Head quarters and Country Offices		4	4
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network			1
Earth Savers Movement		1	1
Asia Pacific Federation of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ)			1
Conservation International (CI)			1
Wetlands International (Asia Regional Office)			1
World Conservation Union (IUCN) Asia			1
Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation		1	
Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern		1	1
Environmental Broadcast Circle, Philippines		1	1
Concerned Citizens Against Pollution, Philippines		1	1
Private Sector (5)			

Governments and Other Stakeholders	Initial Draft, 25 May 2001	1st Revision, 1 August 2001	2nd Revision, 19 April 2002
International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)			1
East Asian Response PTE LTD (EARL)		1	1
Maritime Consultancy Enterprise, Malaysia			1
Enviro Lift Services Sdn Bhd, Malaysia			1
Peremba Malaysia Sdn Bhd	1		1
Research and education institutions (28)			
Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore		1	1
National University of Singapore	2	2	2
Research Institute of Ocean Economics, Japan		1	1
Lab of Oceanography, Nagasaki University, Japan		1	
Korean Maritime Institute		2	2
Korean Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI)			1
National Fisheries R & D Institute, RO Korea			1
Indonesian Institute of Sciences			1
Malaysian Institute for Marine Affairs	1		1
Institute of Post Graduate Study, University of Malaysia, Malaysia			1
Beijing University, China			1
China Institute for Marine Affairs	1		2
College of Legal Studies, China Ocean University			1
Center for Coastal Pollution and Conservation, City University of Hongkong			1
Philippine Center for Marine Affairs, Inc. (Philmar)	1		1
Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines		1	1
Siliman University, Philippines	1	1	1
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	1	2	2
National Center for Social and Human Sciences, Vietnam			1
5 Institutes in tourist, ecological economics, fisheries economics and planning, meteorology and hydrology, forestry inventory and planning, Vietnam			5
National University of Hanoi, Vietnam			1
Australian Institute of Marine Science		1	1
University of Wollongong, Australia			1
University of Kalmar, Sweden			1
School of Marine Affairs, University of Washington, USA			1

Note: The number given in the table means the number of copies of the draft SDS-SEA provided for review and comments. The actual number of government agencies and other stakeholders involved in the consultations on the drafts of the SDS-SEA could be much higher than what is shown in the table. Information given in the table is based on the reports and records available to the Regional Programme Office.

Consultations on the draft SDS-SEA were conducted through various fora including the following:

- a) The 7th, 8th and 9th PSC Meetings, the Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group (ICG) Meeting, and the 1st and 2nd Senior Government Officials' Meetings;
- b) Regular consultation channels with PEMSEA national focal agencies;
- c) Interaction of PEMSEA national focal agencies with various other concerned agencies;
- d) National inter-agency, cross-sectoral stakeholder consultation meetings (e.g., in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam);
- e) Interaction with local governments, various sectors of civil society and local communities particularly at the PEMSEA demonstration sites;
- f) Inter-programme consultation meetings, e.g., the Meeting of Project Managers of GEF International Waters Projects in the East Asia Region, 18 March 2002;
- g) Expert meetings, e.g., Senior Experts Dialogue on Coastal and Marine Policy, Manila, Philippines, 13-14 July 2001; the First Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Group, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-10 May 2002, and the Experts' Meeting on Strategies for Better Coastal and Ocean Governance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-20 November 2002;
- h) Missions conducted by the Regional Programme Director and other RPO officers to PEMSEA's international, regional and national partners.

In addition, the draft SDS-SEA was introduced and presented by the Regional Programme Director and other RPO officers to various stakeholders at a series of international and regional fora. Comments received from these meetings were also considered in the SDS-SEA revisions.

The First Revision

The First Revision, 1 August 2001, three months after the preparation of the initial draft, 25 May 2001, incorporated the feedback from the Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group (ICG) Meeting, 28-29 June 2001, the Senior Experts Dialogue on Coastal and Marine Policy, Manila, Philippines, 13-14 July 2001, and other sources.

Upon reviewing the initial draft of the SDS-SEA, the Pilot ICG Meeting (PEMSEA, 2001a), attended by the participating countries' National Focal Points or their representatives, concluded that:

- 1) The RPO had done good work with regard to the development of the draft SDS-SEA (then titled "Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia");
- 2) The concept, framework and specific strategies of the SDS-SEA were supported by all countries represented at the ICG;
- 3) The document would be useful as a guide in the formulation of national coastal and marine policy; and

- 4) The action programmes in the SDS-SEA were drafted in general terms, giving the countries free scope to develop more country-specific action programmes relevant to their needs and according to their capacities. Countries could initiate partial implementation of the SDS-SEA or at least explore such possibilities.

The Senior Experts Dialogue on Coastal and Marine Policy (PEMSEA, 2001b), attended by individual senior experts from the participating countries, examined the draft SDS-SEA and concluded that:

- 1) The draft SDS-SEA was a good and comprehensive document that could be very helpful to the countries of the region.
- 2) Definitions of, and justification for, the geographical coverage could be strengthened to include socio-economic interdependence of countries in the region and the oceanographic and meteorological links that define the uniqueness of the region. However, the overriding consideration is the environmental links among the five large marine ecosystems (LMEs) of the Seas of East Asia.
- 3) The Strategy was innovative particularly in terms of:
 - The integration of ecological, economic and social issues into the strategy
 - The linkage among international and regional instruments related to the environment, including, for example, biodiversity, migratory species, particularly sensitive sea areas, and transboundary pollution
 - A regional focus on environmental issues and their implications, as opposed to a national or site-specific focus
 - A framework for national, regional and local authorities to act and resolve issues
 - A partnership approach involving governments, private sector and non-government organizations, each with an identified responsibility

The First Revision of the Strategy incorporated the following changes into the initial draft:

- 1) Better explanation of the nature and purpose of the Strategy in the *Foreword*, which emphasizes the Strategy as an integrated approach for promoting functional partnerships among all concerned stakeholders and linkages of major concerned multilateral international agreements, regional programmes of action and national policies;
- 2) Scientific assessments added in “boxes” to provide better rationale for the assertions, specific strategies and action programs;
- 3) Integrated environmental monitoring added to the PROTECT strategy, Objective 1 on *Combating transboundary environmental threats*;

- 4) Formulating national and local coastal and marine strategy added to the DEVELOP strategy, Objective 1 on *Advancing suitable development activities in coastal and marine areas*;
- 5) ISO certification among the environmental management systems for local governments added to the DEVELOP strategy, Objective 3 on *Partnerships in sustainable environmental investments*;
- 6) The establishment of a self-sustaining regional coordinating mechanism added to the IMPLEMENT strategy, Objective 2 on *Regional Cooperation*.

The Second Revision

The Second Revision, 19 April 2002, incorporated the feedback from the following sources:

- 1) Various concerned national agencies, with coordination by national focal points, involving such sectors as shipping, fisheries, tourism, mining, science, education, and mass media. For example, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia officially expressed “in principle support for the environmental strategy for the seas of East Asia,” and the confidence that “such strategy could be implemented for Indonesian coastal and marine areas as well as in the East Asia region.”
- 2) UN agencies and programmes, including UNDP, FAO, IMO, IOC and UNEP.
- 3) Regional entities and programmes, including COBSEA, ASEAN, ESCAP, IOC/WESTPAC, and FAO/APFIC. For example, the FAO/APFIC endorsed “the proposed shared vision, mission and goals” in the Strategy and considered that “the proposed objectives for each goal (from sustain to communicate) are appropriate.”
- 4) International, regional and national donor institutions, including GEF, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Nippon Foundation, Sida/GIWA, Danida-Vietnam, Indonesia Biodiversity Foundation and ICLARM. For example, the World Bank, while committing itself to be a collaborator in the Strategy and expressing its support for the efforts to develop the SDS-SEA, suggested in particular the following for the refinement of the draft Strategy:
 - Balancing various objectives in ecosystem protection, resource conservation and socioeconomic development programmes, particularly the operational linkages of the improved coastal and ocean governance with poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood and reduction of vulnerability to hazards.
 - Addressing issues of the marine environment and its associated river basins, watersheds and catchment areas, and impacts of both land- and sea-based activities.
- 5) NGOs, scientists, policy experts and institutions, academic institutions, private sector groups and eminent individuals within and outside of the region, including Asian Fisheries Society, National University of Singapore, Marine Science Institute (University of the Philippines), Korean Maritime Institute, China Institute

of Marine Affairs, INTERTANKO and the East Asia Response Pte Ltd (EARL). For example, INTERTANKO expressed interest in the strategy, their support for the integrated approaches and stakeholder consultation, and their appreciation of the excellent quality of the overall draft document.

- 6) On an individual basis, experts at the International Conference on Coasts and Oceans (Paris, France) and on other occasions, including Dr. Art Hanson, former president of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), Dr. Marea E. Hatzios of World Bank, Prof. Geoff Wescott of Australia, Prof. Jon M. Van Dyke of East-West Center, Ms. Lee Kimball, independent analyst, and Dr. Clive Wilkinson of Australian Institute of Marine Science, gave positive remarks.
- 7) There are also other regional programmes, such as those represented at the Meeting of Project Managers of GEF International Waters Projects (GEF-IWP) in the East Asia Region, in Busan, RO Korea on 18 March 2002, which provided useful comments. The GEF-IWP Meeting recommended, among others, the strengthening of interaction among the IW projects in the region, including “the development and implementation of a common regional strategic framework to facilitate the development of complementary and collaborative approaches in relation to their common goal of promoting national coordination and international cooperation in environmental protection, rational resource use and sustainable development.”
- 8) The 8th PSC Meeting, in Busan, ROK on 19-22 March 2002, recognized “the value of the Regional Strategy as a framework and guide for the development of integrated environmental management strategies and action programmes at local, national and subregional levels” (Para. 8.34, PEMSEA, 2002b).

The Second Revision incorporated the following changes on the First Revision:

- 1) The change of title from “Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia” to “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia” in accordance with the decision of the 8th PSC Meeting;
- 2) Highlighting interconnectivities of the East Asian Seas region, with special reference to large-scale atmospheric, oceanic and biological processes/phenomena such as typhoons, the Kuroshio Current and highly migratory species, which link the LMEs, subregional seas, coastal areas and their associated river basins (see “The Seas of East Asia” in the Introduction above);
- 3) Elucidating the nature and purpose of the SDS-SEA in the *Foreword* in terms of its interconnection with the goals of poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood, and reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards;
- 4) Adding an objective on *land-based activities* to the PROTECT strategy to strengthen the implementation approaches to GPA and other related programmes;

- 5) Concretizing action programmes on *integrated coastal management* (PROTECT, Objective 2), taking into account the workable framework, processes and approaches tested at PEMSEA demonstration sites;
- 6) Inserting “Reducing excessive fishing capacity” under the SUSTAIN strategy, Objective 3 on *Sustainable Fisheries*;
- 7) Adding “Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)” and “environmental impact assessment” as tools under the DEVELOP strategy, Objective 1 on *sustainable economic development*;
- 8) Clarifying and concretizing the related roles of local governments and the private sector under the DEVELOP strategy, Objective 3 on *sustainable financing and environmental investments*; and adding the element of national accounting of oceans and coastal resources;
- 9) Adding the action for the countries to participate in the formulation and revision of international conventions under the IMPLEMENT strategy, Objective 1 on *national accession to international conventions*;
- 10) Adding stakeholder participation procedures and dispute resolution mechanisms concerning resource uses under COMMUNICATE, Objective 3 on *innovative communication methods*;
- 11) Concretizing options for developing mechanisms for regional collaboration in the IMPLEMENT strategy, Objective 2 on *regional cooperation*;
- 12) Further synthesis of information in the introductory part to lend support to the focus of the Strategy, which changed from environmental management to sustainable development. For example, a new section on *Economic Development in East Asia* was inserted. The section on *Poverty and the Environment* was revised for clarity. Furthermore, information on the status of land-based sources of marine pollution in the region was added. Elaboration of *Desired Changes* was made due to the importance of the section in providing the specific goals of the action programs. The roles of different stakeholders were also emphasized further in *Executing the Strategy*.

The Third Revision

The Third Revision, 18 July 2003, reflected the feedback from PEMSEA participating governments and other stakeholders since the Second Revision of 19 April 2002; including input of the First Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Group (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-10 May 2002), and the Experts’ Meeting on Strategies for Better Coastal and Ocean Governance (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-20 November 2002).

The Regional Programme Director and other senior staff presented the Second Revision of the SDS-SEA for comments to participants on the following occasions:

- a) Asia Pacific Conference on Marine Science and Technology, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 2002

- b) Managing Shared Waters International Conference, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, June 2002
- c) The 4th ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment Meeting, Vietnam, July 2002
- d) GEF 2nd Biennial International Waters Conference, Dalian, China, September 2002
- e) Marine Environmental Committee Meeting, IMO, London, the United Kingdom, October 2003
- f) Fish for All Summit, the WorldFish Center, Penang, Malaysia, November 2003
- g) The 7th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, Vientiane, Lao PDR, November 2003
- h) RPO missions to IMO, UNDP, GEF Secretariat, the World Bank and other institutions

The First Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Group (MEG) considered the draft SDS-SEA “a well thought-out document,” but found it necessary to revise some parts of the texts in order to reflect the change from “environmental management strategy” to “sustainable development strategy”. The MEG Meeting maintained that the texts of the SDS-SEA, although premised on scientific assessments, should be concise and avoid “lengthy description of technical details that would dilute its meanings.” The MEG Meeting also recommended that the RPO follow up with countries in validating national statistics referenced in the draft SDS-SEA. (PEMSEA, 2003a.)

The Experts’ Meeting on Strategies for Better Coastal and Ocean Governance (PEMSEA, 2003c) was attended by legal and policy experts primarily from PEMSEA participating governments, research and education institutions of Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Experts’ Meeting considered that the SDS-SEA should:

- 1) Serve as a regional framework for implementing the WSSD requirements relating to the Seas of East Asia and an interactive platform for various stakeholders and governments to implement their respective commitments and develop partnerships in a holistic manner;
- 2) Focus on common elements of regional cooperation, while leaving the detailed implementation priority, modalities and areas of application to the discretion of countries and stakeholders, taking into account their respective specific conditions;
- 3) Highlight the benefits that the SDS-SEA can offer, for example, promoting mutual assistance and sharing management experience, expertise and technology, among the countries of different income levels in the region.

The Experts’ Meeting discussed the appropriate way for the countries to jointly express support and endorse the SDS-SEA. It proposed that a Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia be such a vehicle and recommended that a draft Declaration be prepared for adoption by the Ministerial Forum to

be held in December 2003. The Experts' Meeting suggested that the Declaration should not dwell on specific management objectives and targets, which should be left to the SDS-SEA to address. Rather, the Declaration should express the commitment to the sustainable development of the coastal and marine areas through integrated management approaches and the need to develop national coastal and marine strategies in the spirit of the regional cooperative strategy and regional collaborative mechanisms.

Extensive consultations were conducted within and among governments of PEMSEA participating countries for a period of over 15 months between the Second and Third Revisions of the SDS-SEA. During this period, the Regional Programme Director circulated the Second Revision of the SDS-SEA among PEMSEA national focal agencies for review and comment. By February 2003, the RPO had prepared a draft amendment to the Second Revision of the SDS-SEA, incorporating the inputs from various stakeholders and meetings, mentioned above, since April 2002.

On 10 April 2003, the Regional Programme Director circulated the draft amendment to the Second Revision of the SDS-SEA, together with the draft Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia and the draft Programme for the Ministerial Forum, to the focal agencies for comment in order to finalize these drafts for the review by the Senior Government Officials Meeting and the 9th PSC Meeting.

By 18 July 2003, the RPO had received comments from Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. The RPO suggested revisions of the draft SDS-SEA based on the inputs received from various stakeholders and in light of the consensus reached among the countries. Comments on the draft Declaration were also received from the three Informal Consultation Meetings on the Ministerial Forum and International Conference on the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: "Towards a New Era of Regional Collaboration and Partnerships" organized by IMO, London, in January, March and July 2003 respectively, and attended by the Maritime Attachés and Embassy Representatives in London of PEMSEA participating countries.

The feedback, together with inputs of various other sources, provided the basis for the production of the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA. The Third Revision of the SDS-SEA embodied the following features and modifications:

- 1) Further readjustment of the terminology, content and structure of the SDS-SEA in keeping with the change from "environmental management strategy" to "sustainable development strategy."
- 2) Clear definition of the nature of the SDS-SEA as a regional cooperative platform and a package of programmes and approaches to implement particularly the WSSD requirements, as shown in the *Foreword*, rather than creating any new legal commitments or regional structure.
- 3) Better illustration of integrated management approaches as the overarching framework for various specific strategies and actions, notably in the *Framework for the Strategy and General Principles* and various action programmes.

- 4) Concretization of strategies to facilitate their implementation on the ground, taking into account local traditions, customs, values, comparative advantages and constraints, as shown in various action programmes.
- 5) Enlisting the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Jakarta Mandate among important international agreements for the conservation of biodiversity under the SUSTAIN strategy, Objective 1, Action Programme 1 .
- 6) Recognition of the importance of living resource management in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in the SUSTAIN strategy, Objective 3, Action Programme 1.
- 7) Addressing the linkage of strengthening maritime enforcement with anti-piracy in the PROTECT strategy, Objective 3, Action Programme 1.
- 8) Expanded components on sustainable development of ocean-related economies and industries in keeping with the goal of realizing the harmony between environment and development, as shown in DEVELOP, Objective 1: *Promotion of sustainable economic development in coastal and marine areas.*
- 9) Recognition of the role of megacities in coastal management, particularly in the DEVELOP strategy, Objective 2, Action Programme 4.
- 10) Better synthesis of scientific information to illustrate economic and ecological interconnectivity of the region such as migratory species, their related trade and the urgency of collaborative response, as shown in the PRESERVE strategy, Objective 2.
- 11) Better grouping of outcomes and action programmes, and improved clarity in the use of terms and formulation of actions.

As a result of further consultations with stakeholders and partners, in addition to GEF, UNDP, IMO and the World Bank, the following organizations and institutions responded positively to the invitation to enlist as collaborators for the SDS-SEA:

- a) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- b) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO)
- c) Ship and Ocean Foundation (SOF), Japan
- d) The United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Coordination Office (UNEP-GPA)
- e) The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- f) WorldFish Center

The 1st Senior Government Officials Meeting, in Pattaya, Thailand on 4-5 August 2003 (PEMSEA, 2003c), reviewed and accepted the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA with the following amendments, in addition to some editorial changes:

- 1) In the *Foreword*, the nature of the SDS-SEA as a package of implementation approaches “without assuming new legal obligations” was clarified. Further emphasis was given to the consideration of national development objectives, capacities and specific conditions of the countries in the implementation of the SDS-SEA.
- 2) Insertion of the word “Major” before the “Seas of East Asia” in the table attached on Page 8.
- 3) In the *Desired Changes* section, the role of local communities in managing coastal and marine environment was inserted, in addition to local government; the need for concerned international organizations to harmonize their policies at the national level was stressed; and the outcomes under Environment and Resources were more logically listed.
- 4) Under *General Principles*, the references for each of the principles were removed, as these references cannot cover all the major legal instruments in which a given principle may be cited; and the elements of Partnerships, Science and the Role of Indigenous Peoples were inserted into the relevant parts of *General Principles*, due to their importance for the SDS-SEA.
- 5) In *East Asian Ecosystems at Risk*, the sequencing of the different categories of “Threats” was revised according to the types of ecosystems and habitats experiencing the threats.
- 6) In PROTECT, Objective 3, Action Program 1(c), the linkage between marine safety matters and enhancing integrated at-sea enforcement was clarified.
- 7) In PROTECT, Objective 3, Action Program 2, applicable international instruments for ocean dumping were differentiated from those for at-sea waste incineration; and reference to the 1996 Protocol was removed as the participating countries have not yet ratified this Protocol.
- 8) In COMMUNICATE, Objective 2, Action Program 2, regional contribution to the regular process of the Global Marine Environmental Monitoring and Assessment called for by the WSSD Plan of Implementation was added.
- 9) In *Monitoring National Level Implementation of the Strategy*, an explanatory note was added to clarify the “ten key international environmental instruments” which the countries may consider.
- 10) The Northwest Pacific Action Plan and the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Programme were added to the list of Regional Action Plans in Annex 2.

The 1st SGOM also amended and accepted the Draft Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia (the

Putrajaya Declaration), subject to final national review, as an appropriate way for the Ministerial Forum to document its consideration and adoption of the SDS-SEA.

Final National Review and Revision

On 15 August 2003, the RPO circulated the Third Revision of the SDS-SEA and the Draft Declaration, as amended by the 1st SGOM, to the participating governments to facilitate final national review and to the collaborators and other stakeholders for comments.

The final version of the SDS-SEA prepared by the RPO in mid-November 2003, based on the feedback from the countries and other stakeholders, contains the following new elements:

- 1) The increased number of collaborators in the SDS-SEA from 10 to 16 to include Asia Pacific Federation of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ), Conservation International (CI), Wetlands International--Asia Regional Office, World Conservation Union (IUCN) Asia, World Resources Institute (WRI), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), based on their expressed commitments and requests in writing.
- 2) Updated national information and statistics received from Brunei Darussalam and DPR Korea.
- 3) In the *Glossary*, clarification of the term "resource use" as "any utilization of natural resources in the Seas of East Asia, including the sustainable use and conservation of coastal and marine living resources and conservation and management of non-living resources."
- 4) In the *Foreword*, under the heading of "What is its scope?" the word "piracy" was removed as one of the related issues not addressed by the SDS-SEA; and under the heading of *How will the Sustainable Development Strategy be adopted*, the process in developing the SDS-SEA was updated.
- 5) Under *The Value of the Seas of East Asia*, the term "economic values" was inserted, and "equity" was added as part of the historical, political, educational and cultural values.
- 6) In the diagram depicting the relationship between Poverty and the Environment, "political" was added as one of the elements impacting on such a relationship.
- 7) In *Outcomes*, under "Economic," special reference was given to improving sustainable livelihood for the poor; and under Environment and Resources, "point and non-point sources" was specified in managing pollution; and "ecotourism promoted" was added.
- 8) In *Executing the Strategy*, under the *Role of National Government*, the development of appropriate norms, standards, procedures, guidelines, criteria and manuals to assist local governments and other stakeholders was added; under the *Role of Local Government*, the term "a neutral line agency" was replaced by "a competent local agency;" and the element of cooperation among local governments and other stakeholders was inserted.

- 9) In *East Asian Ecosystems at Risk*, “rapid economic development beyond what the ecosystem can sustain” was cited as an important root cause of the risk. In addition, “bleaching” was inserted into *Threats to coral reefs*, and “unsound silviculture practices and sea level rise” were added to *Threats to mangroves*.
- 10) In PROTECT strategy, under Objective 1, Action Program 1, the new elements include oil spill clean up cost recovery and its related national capacity building, and the management of tributaries and promotion of good practices in land and water uses as part of the integrated watershed management
- 11) In PROTECT, under Objective 3, Action Program 1, the linkage with anti-piracy was deleted.
- 12) In the information box on *Management Approaches*, item 2 on mechanisms for stakeholder cooperation was expanded to cover cooperation “at different levels, to address area- or site-specific priority issues affecting sustainable development.”
- 13) In *Monitoring National Level Implementation of the Strategy*, the numerical figure “ten” was removed before “key international environmental instruments.”
- 14) The word “Major” was added before “International Instruments Relating to the Coastal and Marine Environment” in Annex 1, and before “International and Regional Programmes of Action on the Coastal and Marine Environment” in Annex 2. In Annex 3, Table 1 on the status of ratification of concerned international conventions was updated.

The final version of the Putrajaya Declaration resulting from consultations with the countries contains the following revisions as underlined:

“Unfortunately, the quality of this natural heritage continues to be eroded, as indicated by the ongoing degradation and destruction of habitats, diminishing fisheries, pollution of coastal waters, red tide occurrences, invasive alien species, and general loss of biodiversity” (Paragraph 3).

“Therefore national policies and programmes of actions for sustainable coastal and marine uses should, where deemed appropriate by the individual East Asian countries, with due regard for national policy objectives, development goals, national and local circumstances, capabilities and available resources, be aligned to the global efforts as embodied in the relevant international conventions and agreements” (Paragraph 5).

“We recognize the benefits of working together, and firmly commit ourselves to regional cooperation and collaboration. To this end, we agree to adopt the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia as a common platform for regional cooperation, and as a framework for policy and programme development and implementation, at the national and local level, on a voluntary basis, where deemed appropriate by each concerned individual state within the East Asian region, without imposing legal obligations or prohibitions.” (third from the last paragraph).

D. THE SDS-SEA: REGIONAL CONSENSUS AND COMPROMISES

The Need for the SDS-SEA

The driving forces behind the formulation of the SDS-SEA are the recognition of the social, economic, cultural and ecological interconnectivities in the region, the need and the urgency to address transboundary environmental and resource use issues confronting the countries, the failure of single sector-based management approaches and the need to develop and strengthen partnerships among all the stakeholders as a better way of governance for the sustainable development of the region.

Nature and Purpose

It was emphasized in various consultations with governments, NGOs, experts and other stakeholders that the change of focus from the “Environmental Strategy” to “Sustainable Development Strategy” as decided by the 8th PSC Meeting must be carried through, both in form and substance.

As sustainable development deals with the relationship between environment and development, or between the ecology and economy, in relation to the Seas of East Asia, the SDS-SEA should address the synergy of ecological environment with natural resource uses, the linkages of social, economic and environmental issues, and the partnerships among various stakeholders in management interventions. The emphasis of the SDS-SEA is on developing a set of approaches to implement the existing commitments of PEMSEA participating countries under relevant international agreements, rather than creating new legal obligations.

Framework and Essential Elements

It was stressed on many occasions that the SDS-SEA represents a regional perspective and adopts approaches for the implementation of the WSSD requirements for the coasts and oceans.

As shown in Table 2, by implementing the WSSD requirements concerning the coasts and oceans, the SDS-SEA not only offers policy directions and implementation measures for major multiple focal areas which affect all ocean-related sectors (e.g., integrated management framework and approaches at all levels, integrated land- and sea-use zonation, capacity building, financing mechanisms and investments), but also incorporates sustainable development approaches into individual sectoral development and management policies (e.g., sustainable fisheries, addressing adverse impacts of both land- and sea-based activities).

Table 2 The SDS-SEA in Relation to the WSSD Plan of Implementation Concerning Sustainable Ocean Development

WSSD Requirement	Related SDS-SEA Element
Paragraph 29: effective coordination and cooperation at the global and regional levels,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building interagency, intersectoral and intergovernmental partnerships (Mission)

WSSD Requirement	Related SDS-SEA Element
between relevant bodies and actions at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and the WSSD Plan of Implementation can only be implemented effectively through the integrated approach, and effective coordination and cooperation at all levels (Framework for the Strategy) • Application of the integrated management approach as the overarching framework for the implementation of strategic projects and programmes (General Principles) • Develop and strengthen national coastal and marine strategies and policies, as well as integrated multidisciplinary and multisectoral coastal and ocean management mechanisms and processes at the national and local levels (Desired Changes, Executing the Strategy, Objective 1 of IMPLEMENT)
Paragraph 30: sustainable fisheries, including restoration of depleted stocks, implementation of concerned international agreements and FAO Code of Conduct and Plan of Implementation, encouraging regional fisheries management, maintaining productivity and biodiversity, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance transboundary cooperation in subregional seas for fisheries management, including implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct and Plan of Implementation; strengthening EEZ fisheries management capacity • Use of living resources in a responsible way, e.g., reducing excessive fishing capacity, restoring depleted fish stock • Integration of fisheries management into integrated coast management programme (Objective 3 of SUSTAIN)
Paragraph 31: Implementation of Jakarta Mandate, conservation of ecosystem, habitats and biodiversity, elimination of destructive fishing practices; implementation of RAMSAR Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement policies for biodiversity conservation according to Convention on Biological Diversity and the Jakarta Mandate (Action Programme 1, Objective 1, SUSTAIN) • Restore threatened habitats and biodiversity (Action Programme 2, Objective 1, SUSTAIN) • Implementing measures against destructive fishing (Action Programme 3, Objective 3, SUSTAIN)
Paragraph 32: Advance implementation of GPA and the Montreal Declaration, including human and institutional capacity building, managing risks and impacts of pollution, elaborating regional programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacity to protect the marine environment from the harmful effects of land-based human activities • Local implementation of management programmes to combat various related adverse impacts • Holistic approaches to managing impacts of land-based activities (Objective 2 PROTECT)
Paragraph 33: Enhance maritime safety and protection of marine environment from pollution, including ratification and implementation of IMO conventions, addressing invasive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent operational and accidental pollution of marine waters from shipping and other sea-based activities, including at-sea multisectoral law enforcement, measures to avoid introduction of exotic organisms from ballast water, oil spill contingency planning and response

WSSD Requirement	Related SDS-SEA Element
alien species in ballast water, management measures on maritime transportation and other transboundary movement of radioactive materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control ocean dumping and incineration of wastes in accordance with the 1972 London Convention • Integrated management of land and sea based economic activities (Objective 3, PROTECT)
Paragraph 34: Improve scientific understanding and assessment, including increasing collaboration, the establishment of global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, capacity building in science, information and management, and of concerned international institutions, e.g., UNESCO/IOC, FAO and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions for raising public awareness and understanding of the concerned management issues and process • Actions for applying science and traditional knowledge in decision making • Mobilizing governments and other stakeholders using innovative communication methods, including local, national and regional networking (COMMUNICATE) • Strengthen and expand environmental assessment systems and practices, including SEA, EIA, IEIA (Objective 1, DEVELOP) • Implementing integrated environmental monitoring programmes, using appropriate indicators to determine the management effectiveness (Objective 1, PROTECT)

The overarching framework of the SDS-SEA is the integrated management approach based on stakeholder involvement and participation. As explicitly worded in the Framework for the Strategy and the General Principles, it cuts across various components of the SDS-SEA, including Desired Changes, Foundation of the Strategy and Executing the Strategy, as well as action programmes. A special section on integrated coastal management (DEVELOP, Objective 2) focuses on the implementation of integrated management approaches at the local level.

It was evident in the various consultations that what brings the countries and stakeholders together to jointly undertake the SDS-SEA in order to bring about their Desired Changes were the Shared Vision and Mission, rather than the mandate or responsibility of any individual organization or programme. The SDS-SEA offers a platform for the concerned organizations and programmes to play their respective roles individually, while cooperating with one another in addressing common issues and concerns. In other words, the SDS-SEA facilitates, rather than replaces, the effective functioning of individual participating organizations or programmes, through promotion of coordination, cooperation and partnerships. This has been demonstrated by the increased number of international and national organizations and institutions joining the ranks of collaborators in the SDS-SEA.

The Spirit of Compromise and Seeking Common Grounds

The SDS-SEA balances the diversified interests and perspectives of PEMSEA participating countries at different stages of socioeconomic development, and builds on the common grounds reached among various stakeholders representing a broad range of sectors, industries, or disciplines that are related to coastal and ocean environment and natural resources, including fisheries, maritime transportation, tourism, mining, and others.

In the formulation of the strategies and action programmes, the SDS-SEA should strike a balance between common concerns of the countries of the region as a whole and the specific needs of individual countries, prioritization of strategies and different national perspectives, specific operational modality and region-wide applicability. While national strategies focus on national priorities, the SDS-SEA as the regional strategy focuses on transboundary concerns and cooperative efforts.

The SDS-SEA is ecosystem-based, taking into account important interactions and linkages among river basins, coastal land, water and offshore ecosystems that affect sustainable development. Specific geographic boundaries for implementing various action programmes can be defined when developing implementation plans for the strategic programme areas identified by the SDS-SEA.

REFERENCES

- UNDP-GEF, 1999. UNDP-GEF Project Document, Building Partnerships for Environmental Protection and Management of the East Asian Seas (RAS/98/G33/A/1G/19). *(Unpublished)*
- PEMSEA, 2000. Proceedings of the Seventh Programme Steering Committee Meeting, Dalian, People's Republic of China, 26-29 July 2000 (PEMSEA Meeting Report 1). Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/ International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.
- PEMSEA, 2001a. Proceedings of the Pilot Intersessional Consultative Group Meeting. PEMSEA ICG Report 1, 43 p. Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.
- PEMSEA, 2001b. Proceedings of the Senior Experts Dialogue on Coastal and Marine Policy. PEMSEA Workshop Proceedings No. 4, 33 p. Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.
- PEMSEA, 2002a. Summary Report, GEF International Waters Projects in East Asia Region Meeting of Project Managers/CTAS, Busan, Republic of Korea, 18 March 2002. *(Unpublished)*
- PEMSEA, 2002b. Proceedings of the Eighth Programme Steering Committee Meeting, Busan, Republic of Korea, 19-22 March 2003 (PEMSEA Meeting Report 2). Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/ International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.
- PEMSEA, 2003a. Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Group, PEMSEA Workshop proceedings No. 6, 14 p. Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.
- PEMSEA, 2003b. Proceedings of the Experts' Meeting on Strategies for Better Coastal and Ocean Governance. PEMSEA Workshop Proceedings No. 10, 32 p. Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.
- PEMSEA, 2003c. Proceedings of the Senior Government Officials' Meeting on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. PEMSEA Workshop Proceedings No. 12, 61 p. Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.

PEMSEA, 2003d. Proceedings of the Ninth Programme Steering Committee Meeting, Pattaya, Thailand, 6-9 August 2003 (PEMSEA Meeting Report 3). Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.

Chua, et al., Eds., 2004. The East Asian Seas Congress 2003: Regional implementation of the WSSD Commitments for the Seas of East Asia. PEMSEA Workshop Proceedings No. 13, 425 p. Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme/International Maritime Organization Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Quezon City, Philippines.

ANNEX
LIST OF COLLABORATORS

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO)

United Nations Environmental Programme Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Coordination Office (UNEP-GPA)

The World Bank

Asia Pacific Federation of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ)

Conservation International (CI)

Ship and Ocean Foundation, (SOF), Japan

Wetlands International, Asia Regional Office

World Conservation Union (IUCN) Asia

Worldfish Center

World Resources Institute (WRI)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)